FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY REVIEW OFFICE

Business Plan 2005-2006

A. Mission statement:

In accordance with **Section 32** of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and **Section 487** of Part XX of the *Municipal Government Act* to provide independent oversight over both statutes; to review decisions of public bodies, local public bodies and municipalities relating to applications for access to records; and to make recommendations when applicable.

B. Strategic goals:

1. To continue to encourage the Legislature to amend the Acts in accordance with recommendations made by the Review Officer and to promote more openness and accountability in all public bodies; to provide all Nova Scotians with adequate protection for the security of their personal information.

2. To increase the public's awareness of their rights under the two acts.

3. To continue training and encouraging those assigned to administer the legislation for public bodies, local public bodies and municipalities.

C. Core Business Areas:

1. At the request of applicants, to review decisions of public bodies in response to applications for access from the public; to make recommendations where applicable; to issue public reports when appropriate; and to promote the two Acts within and without public bodies.

2. To attempt to mediate differences so as to resolve complaints.

3. To assist in resolving privacy complaints against public bodies.

4. To defend the interests of the two statutes.

D. Priorities

1. To persuade the legislature of the importance of providing the Review Officer with the power to investigate privacy complaints against public bodies.

2. To encourage the Department of Justice to evaluate the needs of the Office, 11 years after the Review Officer was appointed without staff or formal budget, including setting an appropriate salary for the Review Officer (in lieu of a per diem) in accordance with Section 33(4) of the FOIPOP Act.

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2. To encourage the legislature to make the Review Officer an officer of the legislature so that he/she can be held accountable to the lawmakers of the Province.

3. To ensure timely responses to "requests for review" and privacy complaints.

4. To increase the financial resources of the Office so it can better serve the interests of all Nova Scotians.

E. Performance measurement: Intended outcome:

1. Further improvements in the data base for more efficient monitoring of response times by public bodies; to track public bodies' decisions on applications for access; and to measure the efficiency of the Review Office.

2. Increase in the number of training sessions for FOIPOP Administrators.

F. Human Resources:

- ❑ To reform the classification of staff to reflect their responsibilities.
- ❑ To hire an administrative assistant/secretary for the Office.
- ❑ To continue the Office's efforts to provide services in English and French.